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PROBLEMS ILLUSTRATED BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEAR EAST
AND THE TAIWAN STRAITS

Several important types of problems affecting U.S. policy and activities were revealed by the operations in Lebanon and in the Taiwan Straits last summer and fall. As a result of studies conducted by the agencies concerned, the Planning Board believes the following problems should be called to the Council's attention. At the same time it should be noted that conclusions to be drawn from the Lebanon and the Quency and Matsu operations are not universally applicable in situations where limited military operations may be necessary. There is no doubt that ^{in the Taiwan Strait operation} the firmness of purpose, positive action, and a determined stand on the part of the United States successfully thwarted Communist efforts toward expansion of the Sino-Soviet periphery and sphere of influence, and constituted a major deterrent on the actions of the potential aggressor. In the Lebanon operations, the U.S. was successful in maintaining stability in the area. However the operations in Lebanon and Jordan took place under unusually favorable circumstances. We should not expect that similar future operations could always be carried out under similar circumstances.